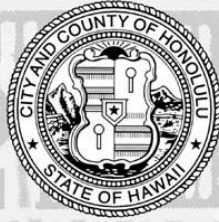


# NEWS RELEASE



Office of the Mayor

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2010

## **HONOLULU RAIL CALLED NATION'S 'PREMIER TRANSIT PROJECT'**

(Wed., July 14, 2010)—Mayor Mufi Hannemann today said he is very pleased that Congressman Jim Oberstar, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, yesterday publicly referred to Honolulu's rail project "the premier transit project in the entire country."

Oberstar, a key figure in determining federal funding for transportation projects, made the comment during an infrastructure summit in Honolulu via videoconference from Washington, DC. His remarks were reported by an online Honolulu news outlet, Civil Beat.

"I deeply appreciate Chairman Oberstar's high praise for our rail project," Hannemann said. "We have worked tirelessly in Honolulu and in Washington DC to ensure this project's success. Chairman Oberstar, Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono are committed to moving this voter-approved project forward. For a time, Hirono alone represented Hawaii in the House, and kept her support for this project front and center."

Oberstar was also quoted as saying Honolulu's elevated rail system would be "vastly safer transit" than anywhere else in the country, "exceedingly well designed" and has "received the highest rating from the Federal Transit Administration."

Hannemann and city transit officials have met often with Oberstar in Washington, DC, to update the Congressman on the project's progress.

He noted that Oberstar personally visited Honolulu in 2008 to review the rail route, and characterized the project then as "one of the most exciting projects in the whole country."

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